

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 KINGST 01992 171913Z

70

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 DHA-02 L-03 EB-07 ORM-02 /030 W

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R 171812Z MAY 76

FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1079

UNCLAS KINGSTON 1992

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: PROPOSED HUMAN RIGHTS PROJECT

REF: STATE 117015

1. ITE SEEMS CLEAR THAT MANY OF THE LDC'S REQUIRE ASSISTANCE IN INTRODUCING REMEDIAL MEASURES THAT WOULD MAKE COUNTRY'S LEGAL SYSTEM MORE RESPONSIVE TO NEEDS OF POOR. REAL QUESTION IS WHETHER REMEDIAL MEASURES COULD BE EFFECTIVELY INTRODUCED WHICH MAY THREATEN EXISTING ENTRENCHED SOCIAL ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL INTERESTS. PERHAPS MOST PRESSING NEED IS PUBLIC INTEREST LAWS THAT PROVIDE PROMPT INEXPENSIVE LEGAL REMEDIES FOR POOR WHO HAVE BEEN UNWARRANTEDLY VICTIMIZED. REGRETTABLY DEMAND FOR THIS TYPE OF LEGAL REMEDIES TEND TO EXCEED AVAILABILITY OF THESE SERVICES FOR THE POOR.

2. JAMAICA HAS MADE SOME PROGRESS IN PROVIDING LEGAL REPRESENTATION FOR THE POOR. A LEGAL AID SOCIETY HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED IN KINGSTON PROVIDING FREE LEGAL SERVICES BUT IT REACHES ONLY SMALL NUMBER OF NEEDY CLIENTS BECAUSE OF LIMITED STAFF AND FINANCIAL RESOURCES. PROPOSED PROJECT MAY BE ABLE TO DETERMINE WAYS IN WHICH AID SOCIETY COULD BECOME MORE EFFECTIVE AND EXPAND ITS SERVICES. THIS MAY TAKE FORM OF RECOMMENDATIONS TO GOVERNMENT TO PROVIDE GREATER INCENTIVES TO COUNTRY LAW FIRMS TO ENCOURAGE THEIR PARTICIPATION IN THE LEGAL AID PROGRAM.

3. JAMAICA HAS INTRODUCED PUBLIC INTEREST LAWS PARTICULARLY IN AREAS OF CONSUMER PROTECTION AND LANDLORD/TENANT DISPUTES.

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RESEARCH ACTIVITIES BY ASIL, IN COOPERATION WITH GOJ LEGAL

INSTITUTIONS LEADING TO MORE EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF  
PUBLIC INTEREST LEGISLATION WOULD PROVIDE DIRECT ECONOMIC  
AND SOCIAL BENEFITS FOR VAST MAJORITY LOW INCOME SEGMENT OF  
JAMAICAN SOCIETY. RESEARCH AIMED AT DEVELOPMENT OF APPROPRIATE  
REFORMS OF LEGAL SYSTEM THAT WOULD OBVIATE NEED FOR PROLONGED  
AND EXPENSIVE PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CAN ALSO IMPACT BENEFI-  
CIALLY IN FURTHERING COUNTRY SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.  
GERARD

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** HUMAN RIGHTS, LAW, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE  
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